

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Loren Pearson on 3/18/2009.

In claim 39, between lines 11 – 12 please edit as follows:

extracting from said saved database voxels that are within the organ and that are located at the selected distance from the identified outer reference surface;

after determining the distance from said reference surface for each voxel outside said reference surface, reformatting said voxels by shifting each of said voxels in said reference surface by a distance along a respective parallel line into a common plane while shifting each voxel in each of the lines by the distance that the given voxel in the reference surface in the given line was shifted;

mapping the extracted voxels onto a two-dimensional grid; and

Cancel claim 40.

Claim 41, line 1: "The method according to claim 40 39"

Claim 42, line 1: "The method according to claim 40 39"

Claim 44, line 1: "The method according to claim 40 39"

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-33, 39, and 41-44 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not disclose or render obvious the combination of elements recited in the claims as whole.

Specifically, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the following limitations:

As per independent claim 39, the claimed:

extracting from said saved database voxels that are within the organ and that are located at the selected distance from the identified outer reference surface;

after determining the distance from said reference surface for each voxel outside said reference surface, reformatting said voxels by shifting each of said voxels in said reference surface by a distance along a respective parallel line into a common plane while shifting each voxel in each of the lines by the distance that the given voxel in the reference surface in the given line was shifted;

mapping the extracted voxels onto a two-dimensional grid; and ... display to reveal any suspicious region in the organ at the selected predetermined distance from the reference surface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel F. Hajnik whose telephone number is (571) 272-7642. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30A-5:00P).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7761. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2628

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel Hajnik/
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2628

/XIAO M. WU/

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